

Appl. No. : 10/689,487
Filed : October 20, 2003

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments to the specification and the claims and the following remarks are submitted as a preliminary amendment of the application noted above.

In this amendment, the specification is amended to change the title from "**METHOD OF SECURING VERTEBRAE**" to "**SYSTEM FOR PERFORMING A PROCEDURE AT A SPINAL LOCATION**." Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is introduced by the requested amendments of the specification. In this amendment pending Claims 1-17 are canceled and new Claims 18-41 are added. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is introduced by the claim amendments.

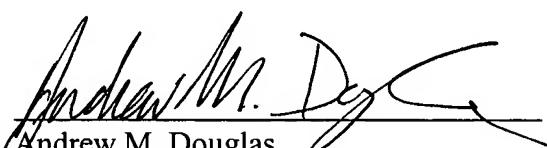
If any question arises with regard to the entry of the proposed amendments to the specification and the claims, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney of record at the number indicated below in order to resolve such issues promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: July 21, 2004

By:


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